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EXPENDITURES AND RECEIPTS

OF THE

TOWN OF EXETER, N. H.,

FOR THE

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1872.

WITH THE

REPORTS OF THE TREASURER OF THE ROBINSON  
FEMALE SEMINARY, THE TOWN LIBRARY  
COMMITTEE AND THE SUPERINTEND-  
ING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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EXETER:  
PRINTED AT THE NEWS-LETTER OFFICE, WATER STREET.  
1872.

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EXPENDITURES AND RECEIPTS  
**BY THE SELECTMEN**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1872.**

EXPENDITURES.

Paid State tax,	\$7,236 00
County tax,	5,842 79
Bonds and coupons,	3,607 00
Notes and interest,	5,003 03
Town Library,	450 00
Exeter Gas Light Co., to March 1872,	650 00
Discount on taxes paid prior to Sep. 1, 1871,	624 54
Balance due Selectmen last year,	272 29
Salary of Collector,	350 00
Salary of Collector, 1870,	350 00
Non-Resident taxes, 1871, worked out,	5 36
W. K. Stratton & Co., Concrete Walks,	1,075 96

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Paid Prudential Committee, District No. 1, .	\$6,539 60
“ “ “ No. 3,	281 58
“ “ “ No. 4,	244 77
“ “ “ No. 5,	316 33
“ “ “ No. 6,	245 02
	<hr/> \$7,627 30

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid Engineers,	45 00
Fountain No. 1,	250 00
Union No. 2,	210 00
Piscataqua No. 3,	125 00
Hook & Ladder,	75 00
Hunneman & Co., 1870,	102 50

Paid John Clark, 1870,	212 75
Kelly & Gardner, 1870,	49 86
Brown & Warren,	747 14
New England Fire Extinguisher Co.,	800 00
Exeter Machine Works,	111 82
Furnald & Clark,	41 75
I. T. Purinton,	44 00
Orville R. Drew,	28 00
Charles E. Tilton,	23 00
Joshua Getchell,	43 17
E. O. Lovering,	41 33
J. B. Shapleigh & Co.	19 94
Thayer, Babson & Co.	19 28
B. & M. Railroad,	27 77
A. E. Kennard,	12 50
Henry A. Hall,	11 25
B. M. Tilton & Co.,	10 00
Samuel S. Thing,	10 00
Jerry Carter,	5 75
J. N. B. Crummett,	15 00
B. G. Purinton,	15 75
James W. Odlin,	4 65
J. L. Barbadoes.	2 00
John A. Sinclair, §	2 00
Monroe White,	2 00
Robert Callahan,	1 00
Frank Garland,	2 00
W. B. Greenleaf,	2 00
James Manix,	8 75
B. M. Tilton & Co.,	2 00
G. H. Carter,	2 00
C. V. Jenness,	2 00
Patrick Shenick,	2 00
Joshua Getchell, 1868-69-70,	25 20
Wiggin & Conner,	110 25
Porter & Thyng,	70
Wiggin & Conner,	41 86
B. & M. Railroad,	12 10
N. G. Gilman,	2 00

Paid B. G. Purinton,	7 00
A. J. Fogg,	27 92
Kelly & Gardner,	32 00
N. T. Batchelder,	297 00
John Clark,	12 50
Exeter Manufacturing Company,	36 00
Exeter Iron Foundry,	27 60
Merrill Brothers,	19 13
Clapp, Evans & Co.,	1 65
N. T. Batchelder, Reservoirs,	824 50

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\$4,607 37

#### HIGHWAY AND BRIDGES.

Paid Smith & Folsom,	\$375 56
C. W. Young,	372 56
James W. Brown,	309 37
J. Adan Waldo,	196 56
Joshua Getchell,	146 49
Kelly & Gardner,	87 87
E. O. Lovering,	79 34
Joseph Perkins, Labor, Tile Draining,	80 00
Furnald & Clark,	64 50
John H. Kimball,	50 40
Dodge, Gilbert & Co.,	30 80
Exeter, Machine Works,	24 04
W. O. Perkins,	21 00
John H. Kimball,	13 00
Sophia Swasey,	6 67
S. W. Rand,	6 12
Head & Jewell,	8 50
John T. G. Haley,	12 50
C. H. Flanders,	6 00
William Nichols,	50
J. M. Mallon,	2 50
I. A. Brown,	6 40
N. T. Batchelder,	91 50
Mrs. C. H. Bell,	4 00
John Flanagan,	36 00
Joseph Perkins,	40 00

Paid Joshua Getchell, 1869,	22 50
Joseph F. Clark, 1870,	14 50
George W. Greene,	4 91
W. K. Stratton,	19 39
D. F. Hayes, Gravel,	162 50
Smith & Folsom,	5 36
	<hr/>
	\$2,301 33

## EXPENSES OF TOWN HALL.

Paid Robert Carter,	\$151 50
Gas Bills,	163 95
George W. Fernald, Coal,	59 23
D. W. Elliot,	18 50
Dana, Sherburne & Co.,	6 75
Eaton, Jones & Co.,	5 13
	<hr/>
	\$405 06

## REPAIRS OF TOWN HALL.

Paid E. Folsom & Co., 1870,	\$53 34
W. O. Perkins,	22 25
W. B. Chapman,	11 75
E. Folsom & Co.	15 26
I. M. Watson,	17 30
E. S. Durgin,	6 00
C. W. Young,	139 92
N. T. Bachelder,	45 00
W. K. Stratton,	30 58
	<hr/>
	\$341 40

## SHEEP BILLS, 1870.

Paid W. H. Harris,	\$34 00
N. Swasey,	32 00
J. C. Lyford,	25 00
Gilman Barker,	24 00
William Conner,	22 50
L. L. Lamprey,	18 50
S. J. Perkins,	12 00
A. C. Haley,	11 00



Paid Gilbert Rollins,	9 00
A. W. Dudley,	5 00

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\$193 00

#### POLICE AND CONSTABLES.

Paid E. S. Durgin,	\$52 00
Edmund Thurston,	50 50
Stephen C. Gray,	25 50
B. A. Ellison,	18 75
Madison Sleeper,	15 00
John Adams,	20 00
N. G. Giddings,	4 00
Horace B. Cobbs,	4 00
James W. Odlin,	4 15
Woodbury Berry,	3 00
Jerrey Carter,	4 00
W. B. Chapinan,	2 00

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\$202 90

#### REPAIRS OF SIDEWALKS.

Paid Labor,	\$451 15
D. F. Hayes, Gravel,	69 50
John Tilton,	43 00
John Flanagan,	13 31
Charles Tuttle,	4 42
John W. Hall,	4 00
Mrs. C. H. Bell,	50 50
J. F. Clark,	5 00
Andrew Collins,	3 75

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\$644 63

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Marseilles & Hoyt, 1870,	\$210 00
Insurance,	115 00
Charles Marseilles,	108 00
Joseph S. Parsons, Town Clerk, 1869,	87 00
Harriet P. Harris, Land damages,	87 00
Charlotte G. Emery,        "	75 00
Edward C. Towle,	22 00

Paid John S. Hayes,	57 41
Kelly & Gardner,	47 76
A. R. Wiggin,	20 38
W. G. Perry, Reporting Births and Deaths,	12 25
Wm. H. Belknap,	10 10
John Flood,	10 00
Auditors, 1871,	8 00
Wm. P. Moulton,	7 55
S. W. Leavitt, Jailor,	9 00
Joseph F. Wiggin,	7 18
F. H. Lovet,	3 65
C. D. Towle,	3 50
George Dow, Watering Trough,	3 00
George W. Furnald,	2 57
Julia A. Winn,	1 75
Thomas Conner,	75
C. W. Young,	115 89
Brown & Warren,	48 58
Steele & Carlisle,	14 51
L. G. Towle,	20 00
John Johnston, Ringing Bell, 1870,	50 00
C. G. Conner Moderator,	10 00
George E. Lane,	57 31
George E. Lane, Town Clerk,	92 50
Ira Burnham,	3 50
A. J. Fogg,	27 00
Superintending School Committee,	65 00
Joseph Perkins,	9 75
Charles U. Bell,	2 00
Horticultural Society,	25 00
W. K. Stratton,	37 50
J. W. Odlin,	15 95
Jacob Carlisle,	4 00
Selectmen,	300 00
Perambulating Town Lines,	30 00
W. B. Morrill,	74 45
D. M. Quimby,	25 00
John Johnston, Ringing Bell,	50 00

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\$1,986 79

## W. K. STRATTON &amp; CO'S. BILL FOR CONCRETE SIDEWALKS.

Paid James W. Odlin,	42 yards,	27	30
A. Wood,	16	"	10 40
New Town Hall,	437	"	284 05
S. B. Swett,	57	"	37 05
Mrs. Gardner,	35	"	22 75
W. G. Perry,	34	"	22 10
Mrs. Jameson,	34	"	22 10
John Bellows,	86	"	55 90
First Congregational Society,	168	"	109 20
Nat. G. S. Bank,	26	"	16 90
Meth. Church,	57	"	37 05
Mrs. C. H. Bell,	84	"	54 60
Mrs. J. Hurd,	65	"	42 25
Old Town Hall,	155	"	100 75
W. B. Morrill,	20	"	13 00
Isaac Shute,	19	"	12 35
Kimball & Holmes,	18	"	11 70
Mrs. Warren,	19	"	12 35
Mrs. Geo. Harris,	19	"	12 35
Mrs. Ladd,	32	"	20 80
James Ellison,	11	"	7 15
Orin Head,	14	"	9 10
H. Grinnell,	26	"	16 90
B. G. Purington,	25	"	16 25
Mrs. O. Smith,	18	"	11 70
D. T. Blake,	71	"	46 15
G. G. Smith,	45	"	29 25
Phillips Academy,	29	"	18 85
J. P. P. Kelly,	38	"	24 70
D. M. Quimby,	25	"	16 25
B. L. Cilley,	25	"	16 25
L. G. Cate,	64	"	41 60
S. A. Brown,	53	"	34 45
Brown & Warren,	59	"	38 35
W. H. Stratton,	57	"	37 05
A. Merrill & Sons,	104	"	67 60
Gas Works,	36	"	23 40
Brown & Warren's Bill,			79 76

Paid Mrs. George Harris,

25 yards, 16 25

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\$1475 96

Cr, By Cash received,

1,075 96

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\$400 00

## SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

Paid Insane Asylum,	\$557 05
Nicholas Rollins, 1870,	198 37
Nicholas Rollins,	123 74
D. W. Ranlet & Co.,	114 75
Porter & Thyng,	62 50
Kelly & Gardner,	44 00
T. B. Hoyt,	43 75
T. E. Fifield,	31 85
C. A. Merrill, 1870,	27 50
Smith & Folsom,	27 00
Andrew Boardman,	30 00
Sally Bennett,	24 00
Johu Gilman,	13 50
Mary Carter,	13 00
N. Weeks, Jr.	10 50
A. R. Wiggins,	9 00
Eunice Bickford,	9 00
T. H. Coleord,	6 15
W. H. Robinson,	6 00
B. & M. Railroad,	5 90
Josiah Smith,	5 00
Samuel Perham,	5 00
Phebe A. Barteaux,	5 00
John Johnson,	4 00
L. G. Towle, 1870,	4 00
Ezra Bartlett,	3 25
C. E. & A. W. Brown,	3 50
George W. Fernald,	2 00
L. G. Towle,	24 75
Dr. A. Carroll,	7 80
Elliot & Dudley,	52 50
John Johnson, 1870,	10 00

Paid A. J. Glover, .	8 00
A. R. Wiggin,	11 00
N. B. Collins,	55 52
J. W. Gale,	10 00
Overseers,	100 00
Samuel Perham,	12 00
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	\$1,680 88

## RECEIPTS.

Taxes assessed for 1871, including non-resident, highway and dog taxes,	\$32,020 58
Borrowed Money,	3,525 74
Railroad Tax,	4,121 01
Savings Bank Tax,	1,662 21
Literary Fund,	186 30
Jewett Conner, Town farm Committee,	2,514 12
United States Rent of Court House,	200 00
County of Rockingham,	468 88
Town of Stratham,	11 00
Town of Brentwood,	10 00
License,	20 00
Rent of Old Town Hall,	60 00
"    New Town Hall,	581 37
"    C. U. Bell,	50 00
"    School District No. 1,	30 00
Daniel Smith Note and interest,	129 75
J. L. White, rent of Tash House,	36 00
Luke Julian, Lumber,	88 58
G. C. Lyford,	50 00
Rent of Samuel Mason House,	6 00
Outstanding Taxes,	6,157 82
Interest collected on taxes prior to 1869,	133 75
Edmund Thurston, Stone,	10 00
	<hr/>
	\$52,073 11

EXETER, MARCH 5, 1872.

We, the undersigned, have this day examined the accounts of the town, exhibited to us by the Selectmen, and find them well vouched and correctly cast, and find a balance due the Selectmen of two hundred and sixty-six dollars and twenty-two cents.

JOSEPH T. PORTER, }  
AUGUSTUS H. WEEKS. } Auditors.

## RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURES.

State Tax,	\$7,236 00
County Tax,	5,842 79
Bonds and Coupons,	3,607 00
Notes and Interest,	5,003 03
Town Library,	450 00
Exeter Gas Light Co.	650 00
Discount on Taxes,	624 54
Balance due last year,	272 29
Salary of Collector,	350 00
Salary of Collector 1870,	350 00
Non Resident Taxes worked out,	5 36
W. K. Stratton & Co.,	1,075 96
Support of Schools,	7,627 30
Fire Department,	4,607 37
Highways and Bridges,	2,301 33
Expenses of Town Hall,	405 06
Repairs of Town Hall,	341 40
Police and Constables,	202 90
Repairs of Sidewalks,	644 63
Sheep Bills, 1870,	193 00
Miscellaneous,	1,986 79
Support of the Poor,	1,680 88
Abatement of taxes prior to 1869,	238 18
Abatement of taxes for 1869,	170 76
Abatement of taxes for 1870,	166 50
Abatement of taxes for 1871,	317,97
Outstanding taxes prior to 1869,	59 03
Outstanding taxes 1869 and 1870,	739 34
Outstanding taxes 1871,	3,922 71
Amount of Cash in hands of N. B. Collins belonging to the town,	1,267 21
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	\$52,339 33
Amount of Receipts,	52,073 11
	<hr/>
Balance due Selectmen,	\$266 22

WILLIAM B. MORRILL,	} Selectmen
JOSEPH PERKINS,	
DANIEL F. HAYES.	
	} of
	} Exeter

## INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWN MARCH 1, 1872.

Town House Bonds,	\$3,000 00
New Loan Bonds,	43,000 00
Notes Payable,	10,601 45
Coupons overdue,	507 00
Interest overdue,	333 41
George J. Abbott, Land damage,	150 00
Jeremiah Johnson,           “	200 00
Heirs of James J. Wiggin, Land damage,	75 00
Lorenzo Nealey,               “	50 00
Heirs of Zadock Robinson   “	50 00
N. T. Bachelder,             “	15 00
Josiah Batchelder,          “	10 00
Ann M. Porter,               “	5 00
Thomas Schenick,            “	5 00
Sundry Individuals,         “	14 00
W. K. Stratton & Co., Concrete,	400 00
N. T. Bachelder, Reservoirs,	200 00
Balance due Selectmen,	266 22

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\$58,882 08

## ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

Taxes due prior to 1869,	\$59 03
Taxes due 1869 and 1870,	739 34
Taxes due 1871,	3,922 71
Amount due from N. B. Collins,	1,267 21
Amount due from Estate Robert Tash,	606 93
Amount due from County Rockingham,	57 50
Note due for Town Farm, April 28, 1872,	609 50

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\$7,262 22

WILLIAM B. MORRILL,	} Selectmen
JOSEPH PERKINS,	
DANIEL F. HAYES.	
	of
	Exeter.



## REPORT OF THE TOWN LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 12, 1872.

The Committee submit the following report of receipts and expenditures for the past year :

## RECEIPTS.

From Committee of 1870,	\$3 18
Appropriation voted by the Town,	450 00
Sale of Catalogues,	10 25
Fines,	2 00
Gas used by Exeter Musical Society,	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$471 43

## EXPENDITURES.

Paid Librarian's Salary,	\$75 00
Chas. Marseilles for printing catalogues,	150 00
C. U. Bell, labor on catalogue,	30 00
Wood and Gas,	29 25
Binding and covering books,	31 50
Stationery,	14 07
Replacing old books,	27 75
New books,	111 61
Cash on hand,	2 25
	<hr/>
	\$471 43

\$60.00 is due Chas. Marseilles for printing the new Catalogues.

We respectfully recommend that \$500.00 be raised for the support of the Library for the coming year.

B. L. CHILEY,  
JOSEPH F. WIGGIN, } Committee.  
CHARLES U. BELL.

## ROBINSON FEMALE SEMINARY.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

TO THE SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF EXETER:

The undersigned, Treasurer of the Robinson Female Seminary, begs leave to make the following report of receipts and expenditures for the year ending February 29, 1872.

## RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, Feb. 28, 1871,	\$1,141 80
Received from Dividends,	14,185 00
Tuitions,	1,179 50
Sale of Furniture in { old Town House, }	99 90
Grass &c. on Seminary ground,	85 05
	<hr/> \$16,691 25

## EXPENDITURES.

Salaries of Teachers,	\$8,758 31
School Books,	300 45
Interest Account,	899 38

## SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Janitress,	\$365 00
Engineer,	626 58
Labor and Material for improvements and repairs,	131 14
“ “ on heating apparatus and { re-setting Boiler, }	226 61
Fire Extinguisher and Insurance,	84 50
Expenses of Commencement day,	83 38
Printing Diplomas,	37 50
Printing Catalogues, Circulars and advertising,	162 40
Exeter Gas Co.	52 35
Travelling Expenses,	29 01
Fuel	745 06
Stationery,	68 05
Sundries,	10 49
	<hr/> \$2,622 07

## GENERAL EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

Salary of Treasurer,	600 00
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Salary of Secretary,	50 00
Sundries,	15 81
	<hr/> \$665 81

## SCHOOL FURNITURE.

Drawing Tables,	79 00
Black Boards and Charts,	31 00
Fittings for Philosophical room,	46 73
Sundries,	14 30
	<hr/> 171 03

## SEMINARY GROUNDS.

Stone Posts and setting,	181 25
Iron       "       "	81 50
Gravel for roads and Carting,	253 71
Labor, Plowing, &c.	251 45
Fertilizer,	302 75
Seed,	35 15
	<hr/> 1,105 81

## PRINCIPAL'S HOUSE.

A. Conner's bill of repairs,	22 32
Sundries,	12 65
	<hr/> 34 97
	\$14,557 83
Cash on hand,	2,133 42
	<hr/> \$16,691 25

No change has been made in the investments of the fund during the year past. The dividends are reduced to some extent, being \$14,185 this year, against \$14,750 in 1870, and \$15,600 in 1869.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES BURLEY, TREASURER.

## TO THE TOWN OF EXETER.

Agreeably to a vote of the Town, passed in March, 1870, the undersigned, Trustees of the Robinson Female Seminary, would present such facts and offer such suggestions in regard to that institution, as appear to have most interest for our citizens.

During the past year the school has been under the management of the same corps of teachers as at the last report, except the musical department, for which the services of a lady of experience and ample qualifications have been secured. We believe that all connected with the board of instruction have labored zealously to advance the interests of the school, and have succeeded in making it a progressive and happy one.

The Seminary is still in its infancy and needs unceasing care and watchfulness in the administration of its affairs. With increased experience, it is probable that changes in its management and scope will suggest themselves, which if sustained by the unanimous approval of our citizens, will add to its efficiency and usefulness. The reputation of the Robinson Seminary should be highly prized by every inhabitant of Exeter. It is an institution which gives our town no small degree of consideration abroad, and which, under wise management, is destined to be an inestimable blessing at home. No party-spirit, selfish purposes or local jealousies should ever be allowed to diminish the regard of our people for this great educational privilege, to impair its advantages by any hasty or ill-advised action, or to weaken the hands of those who are striving for its improvement.

Within the past year the Trustees have voted to reduce the salary of the Principal by the sum of \$500, and of each of the three ladies who have heretofore received \$1000, by the sum of \$100. This reduction will commence at the beginning of the next school year, about September 1. It was rendered absolutely necessary, in the judgment of the Trustees, by the fact that the amount of the income of the Robinson fund and the receipts for tuition have been insufficient, the past year, to pay the expenses of the school and the necessary charges upon the building and grounds. The dividends for the year 1871 fall short of those of 1870 by \$575, and of those of 1869 by above \$1600.

The salaries of the Secretary and Treasurer have also been reduced twenty per cent each, by the voluntary action of those officers. The whole reduction of salaries thus amounts to \$930 annually, a

sum sufficient, as the Trustees believe, to prevent embarrassment hereafter.

There have been connected with the Seminary during the year, 278 pupils; of whom 89 were in the academic-preparatory, 135 in the academic, and 54 in the collegiate department. Of this number all except 51 reside in Exeter. Fourteen were admitted to the youngest class; their average age being about 11 1-3 years. The tuition of five pupils from other towns has been remitted, on account of their limited means.

ABNER MERRILL,	}	<i>Trustees.</i>
JOSHUA GETCHELL,		
SAMUEL W. LEAVITT,		
NOAH HOOPER,		
JOHN E. GARDNER,		
CHARLES H. BELL,		
WM. P. MOULTON.	}	

*February 29, 1872.*



# REPORT

OF

## The Superintending School Committee

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At the last annual election the town made choice of three gentlemen eminently fitted for the office of School Committee. Unfortunately each of them refused in writing to accept the office. The Selectmen, upon whom the law devolved the duty of filling the vacancy, proposed to reappoint the undersigned, who had been of the Committee the preceding year, but we felt that, however well or ill our duties had been performed, there was a considerable portion of our fellow citizens whose confidence we had not, and from whom we could expect no support. We deemed it desirable that the care of the schools should be in the hands of a board, who had the fullest confidence of the people, of all views and of every grade in society, and that we ought not to accept the office, although we were conceited enough to approve the course we had followed, and believed we had the confidence of a majority of the people. We therefore declined to accept another appointment. The Selectmen made some effort to find a Committee which should be satisfactory to them, but not succeeding, they finally informed us that they should make no appointment of School Committee; and at the same time called our attention to the statute, which required us to act until our successors should be elected and qualified in our stead. Whatever might be our feelings with regard to the policy or propriety of this refusal by the Selectmen to perform a plain duty imposed upon them by law, we felt that, to



refuse to perform the duty thus imposed upon us by the statute, and the refusal of the Selectmen, might properly be deemed factions, and result in injury to the schools, the interest of which we had much at heart. We have therefore done just so much in the office the past year, as was absolutely necessary to the continued progress of the schools, and no more.

#### THE SCHOOLS.

It has been customary to give a short paragraph to each of the schools, in which, whatever might be the opinion of the Committee as to the school as a whole, those things were mentioned of which they approved, or some "glittering generality" was asserted, and all else quietly left out. The writer of this not approving this method, although he has followed it at a former time, all especial mention of the schools is omitted. The schools have been fairly successful the past year; some of them very successful. Parents and scholars have reason to be satisfied with the year's work, yet our schools as a whole are not up to the standard they should be, nor what the reputation of the town for schools fairly demands. The great blow struck at our public schools, by the removal of the girls to the Robinson Seminary, is still felt, and will always continue to be matter of regret, to all acquainted with the subject. As time passes on the schools are recovering in part from the prostration thus produced, and thus are, as a whole, better than at any time for the past three years. To make them what they should be however requires a far greater interest in them, on the part of parents and the public, than they now receive. Give them the same interest and attention you do the schools on the Thing Lot, and a marked improvement will be seen at once. This, no Committee, no teacher, can do. It is you who alone can impart it. You, Parents! You, Citizens! It is not creditable to Exeter that, while the position of Trustee of the Seminary is sought for eagerly, the office of School Committee, of in-



finitely greater importance to the State, and the town, goes begging, with no one willing to accept it. The duties of the office are arduous, the compensation small, the danger of offending large, the honor in which it is here held nothing. Still its duties must be performed, and to make the schools what they should be, should be performed by those who have an interest in the work. To secure such, the place should be made an honorable one, an easy one it cannot be made. Your entire confidence should be given to the Committee, and they should be thoroughly supported unless in case of manifest wrong.

#### TEXT BOOKS.

No change has been made, in the books in use in the schools, for more than the statutory period of three years, except in the High School, and the History. In the High School, the only changes have been made when new classes took up the study, and when new books must have been purchased. The change in the History is nominal, as the study had dropped out entirely, until required by the Regulations of 1870. More than half the text books have been in use for more than six years, and changes may therefore naturally be expected soon. We should probably have made a change in the reading books this year, but to do so would have required the exercise of an authority, beyond that which we had proposed to ourselves to use. Such a change should be made the coming year. No other change occurs to us as desirable at this time.

#### THE DISTRICT SYSTEM.

The amount of money apportioned to the Districts the past year, is \$7,627.30., of which District No. 3, (Epping road,) received \$281.58; average attendance six; the whole number in attendance nine; or \$46.93 each for the average attendance, and \$31.29 each for every scholar attending school. In District No. 4, (Newmarket road,) the amount apportioned is \$244.77; and the whole number of scholars, belonging in the

District, attending four ; or \$61.19 each. The average number in this District we can not give, not having yet received the Register. It is apparent that here is a great waste of money. In what way shall it be remedied? These scholars must be educated, even though this waste occur, but may not some part of it be saved? The law now allows the town to abolish the District system, equalize the property of the Districts upon the whole town, and afterward manage the schools in town meeting. In that case a Board of Education must be elected who would have all the powers, and be subject to all the duties of the School and Prudential Committees. Whether the change might not give more importance to the office, and make it more desirable may deserve consideration. This change, from the District to the Town system, has been steadily advancing in favor with the best educators in the country, and must probably, at some time, be adopted, but we imagine the town is hardly yet prepared for so great a change from the ancient methods. It may then deserve consideration whether some change may not be made in the Districts which may produce a better result. In schools so small, it is evidently very difficult to excite, or maintain an interest in the studies. Both teacher and scholars inevitably drag, and not only does it cost far more, but the result is much less satisfactory.

#### SCHOOL HOUSES.

In District No. 1, something must be done the coming year in the matter of school houses. The duty is imperative, to provide accommodation for another Primary on the Plains, and a better place for the Primary on Spring St. The room now occupied by the latter school is entirely unfit, and a disgrace to the District, and the Town, and it is matter of wonder that the parents, whose children attend there, have not long since, demanded better accommodation. These two schools should be provided for the present year. For several years past, successive Committees have recommended the

union of the High and Grammar Schools in one building, this would free the rooms now occupied by the Grammar Schools for the Primaries. The District however has seemed unwilling to make the change, and the friends of the measure are not agreed upon the method of doing it. At the last annual Meeting of the District, a Committee was appointed to report upon the subject at a meeting to be called for the purpose of hearing and acting upon their report. The Committee seem to have been discouraged by the prospect, and no report has been made. Either some arrangement of the kind should be made, or a new school house built upon the plains, and another in the central part of the District without any more delay. While considering this subject, the District would do well to look forward to the necessity, which will soon arise, to provide for those scholars who have no place in our system of graded schools, either because they can not keep up with their respective classes, or because they can not, or think they can not, attend school all the time. Some provision for this class of scholars will need to be made at some time, for both boys and girls.

#### ATTENDANCE.

During the Spring and Fall Terms, the attendance has been much the same as in years past; during the Winter, the schools have been thinner. The average attendance of those professing to go, is about the same as usual, but this average is far too low, the gap between it and the total number of scholars in school ought to be greatly lessened. We fear this is not occasioned by truancy proper, but rather that parents *and masters* do not realize the mischief they are doing, in permitting or requiring their scholars to absent themselves upon frivolous or insufficient reasons. In a few instances scholars have been kept out of school, by those who should know better, upon reasons so utterly selfish, or careless of the good of the children, as to deserve severe reprehension.

The last legislature passed a law on this subject as follows :

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened :*

SECTION 1. Every parent, guardian, master, or other person having the custody, control, or charge of any child between the age of eight and fourteen years residing in any school district in which a public school is annually taught for the period of twelve weeks or more, within two miles by the nearest traveled road from his residence, shall cause such child to attend such public school for twelve weeks at least in every year from and after the first day of September next, six weeks at least of which attendance shall be consecutive, unless such child shall be excused from such attendance by the school committee of the town, or the board of education, or the superintending school committee of such district, upon its being shown to their satisfaction that the physical or mental condition of such child was such as to prevent his attendance at school for the period required, or that such child was instructed in a private school or at home for at least twelve weeks during such year in the branches of education required to be taught in the public schools, or, having acquired those branches, in other more advanced studies.

SEC. 2. The school committee of every town and the board of education or superintending committee of every district shall cause to be posted in three of the most public places in each school district under their supervision, or to be published in some newspaper printed in town three weeks successively, in the month of August annually, a notice of the provisions of this act, particularly calling the attention of parents, guardians, masters and others thereto. The necessary expense of posting such notice or making such publication shall be paid by the town or district whose committee incurs the same.

SEC. 3. Any parent, guardian, master, or other person violating the provisions of the first section of this act shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars for the first offence, and the sum of twenty dollars for the second and every subsequent offence, to be recovered in an action of debt in the name of the district within whose limits the penalty was incurred, by the school committee, board of education or superintending school committee having the supervision of the schools in such district, in any court of competent jurisdiction. All penalties recovered shall be paid to the district and added to the school money thereof.

SEC. 4. School committees, boards of education, and superin-

tending school committees, respectively, shall sue for all penalties incurred under the provisions of the preceding sections ; and any school committee, board of education, or superintending school committee, upon whom a written notice has been served by any tax-payer, stating by whom, when and how any such penalty has been incurred, who shall neglect for ten days after the service of such notice upon them to institute a suit for the recovery thereof, unless such penalty shall sooner be paid without a suit, or unless, upon investigation during that time, they shall be satisfied that no penalty has actually been incurred, shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars for each neglect, to be recovered by the selectmen of the town or the mayor and aldermen of the city in an action of debt, in the name of the town or city, in any court of competent jurisdiction ; such penalty, when recovered, to be paid to the district in which the original penalty was incurred, and added to the school money thereof.

SEC. 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved July 14, 1871.

The notice required was given by us in August last, and we again call attention to it from all having charge of children. It will be seen that the Parent, Master or Guardian is to be punished, if children under their care do not attend school. This law should not be suffered to become a dead letter, but should be rigidly enforced. Every free government depends for its security upon the intelligence, morality and respect for law of its citizens. Community has therefore the right, on the great principle of self-defence, to see that every child is properly educated. This duty no community can neglect without grievous wrong.

JOHN J. BELL,                    }  
JOSEPH W. GALE,               } School  
  } Committee.







